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State Department review completed

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Project: 18-154

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Project Initiation Hemorandum

Date: 23 Ava So

To: D/Pub

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

subject: Receiver's traditional of news concerning the US

Statement of Project

Origin: Internal

roblem: To examine transon's handling of news concerning the US to ascendain whether such news is "standed" in a Evertion administration scope: do US interests.

the Ebily includes comments by two regimes divisions of ORE.

Graphics (if any): -

Form: Memorardem

Draft due in D/Pub: 23 Aug 50

Dissemination deadline (if any):

Responsible Division: OPOB to prepare numo

24 Aug 50

Internal Coordination: DINO & DINE to combibile commont

FDD to make reasoned scown

Departmental responsibilities: More

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Classification to be no higher than: Kesmeted

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Recommended Dissemination: Corporater only

State Department review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Project: IP-154

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Project Initiation Memorandum

Date: 23 August 1950

To: D/Pub

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: Reuter's treatment of news concerning the US

Statement of Project

Origin: Internal

Problem: To examine Reuter's handling of news concerning the US to

escertain whether such news is "slanted" in a direction detrimental

to US interests.

Scope: The study includes comments by two regional divisions of ORE,

and the result of a press scan by FDD

Graphics (if any):

Form: Memorandum

Draft due in D/Pub: 23 August 1950

Dissemination deadline (if any):

24 August 1950

ResponsibleDivision: D/Pub to prepare memorandum

Internal Coordination: D/No and D/NE to contribute comment,

FDD to make newspaper scan

Departmental responsibilities: None

Classification to be no higher than: Restricted

Recommended Dissemination:

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24 August 1950

	MEMORANDUM FOR:	D/Pub, (ORE		25X1A
	ATTENTION :				
	SUBJECT :	Reuter's	s News	Agency	
5X1A	REFERENCE :				
	for information for examples of Asia area. 2. The st	relative to slanted a contract the contract	to the anti-US fforts	telephone conversation Reuter's News Agency a S reporting especially made by your office to ed period of time allow	and specifically in the Southeast accomplish the
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23 August 1950

Reuter's treatment of news concerning the US.

- 1. This report on Reuter's handling of news concerning the US has been prepared in reply to your telephoned request of 21 August. Decause of the limited time available it has not been possible to make as thorough an investigation of the problem as you doubtless would have desired, but I believe you may find these limited results of some value.
- 2. As you no doubt know, Reuter's News Agency is a British wire service in direct and acute competition with US press associations, and, as such, attempts to take advantage of any opportunities to outdo them. It is clearly possible that the bitter competition in this particular field of news reporting has led to mutual irritation and friction. It is also possible that through its handling of news items Reuter's attempts to discredit the US in the eyes of the Indian people as a matter of deliberate policy. Proof is difficult to find. This has been the subject of several New Delhi dispatches and telegrams to the State Department in the past 13 months, and the State Department is understood to be following the matter closely. (See Enclosure B)
- 3. To meet your inquiry, requests were made of D/No and D/NE in ORE and FDD in OO. Their replies are attached as Enclosures A through C.
- 4. The following general conclusions may be tentatively reached on the basis of the limited coverage attempted:
- (a) In Southeast Asia and Africa Reuter's service is very little used. In most instances where it is used, reporting appears to have been factual and objective, with no noticeable "slanting". (See Enclosure A) On the other hand, the pro-Communist overseas Chinese press in Malaya appears to use Reuter's dispatches carrying material originally from Communist sources. (See Enclosure C, Attachment A)
- (b) In India there is a decidedly less objective handling of news from Reuter's sources. This has been explained by Reuter's in London (see an enclosure to Enclosure B) as being due to the peculiar contractual relationship between Reuter's and PTI (Press Service of India), which allows PTI to use Reuter's wires to transmit news and other matter (apparently including Tass releases) from non-Reuter's sources in London.
 - 5. Specific results of our hasty survey are contained in the enclosures. With respect to enclosure B, you are asked to return the cables and dispatches attached to it as enclosures at your earliest convenience. If copies of them

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are available to your office, their substitution for these is requested. With respect to Enclosure C, our request upon FDD was limited to the reporting of items dealing with the Korean war appearing in the second half of July.

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nelosures:	2.0	Nescranders to D/Pub	from D/Ho	dated	25X1
	D.	23 August 1950. Memorandum to Memorandum (copy) to	dated 22 A	ugust 1950. FDD, dated	25X1
		23 August 1950.			25X1

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D/Pub	23 A	ugust	1950
D/NO			

Reuters treatment of American participation in the fighting in Korea, as indicated in Reuters items appearing in the press of the Union of South Africa and of Ireland.

An analysis of Reuters news was made especially difficult in the few papers covered (Rand Daily Mail, The Natal Mercury, and The Irish Times) because of the rarity of the appearance of a Reuters item by itself. In the South African papers, Reuters is often just one of several news-gathering agencies credited for a given article. Insofar as Reuters news could be examined, no appreciable "slanting" could be discovered. An occasional item in describing an American defeat might be a bit more blunt in calling it a defeat than would American news agencies. In general, however, Reuters relied heavily upon the official news releases to describe the changing battle lines and troop movements. On at least one occasion Reuters appeared to go out of its way to justify an American withdrawal.

It may be remarked that Reuters is a wire agency in direct and acute competition with US Press Associations, and, as such, attempts to take advantage of any opportunities offered. For example, Reuter's releases are quite often timed for 7:30 PM, although the information would have been previously available except for the release time, thereby just coming within the deadline for British papers but not for the US press. Although there may perhaps be a political basis for Reuter's attitude, the existence of the strong competition in this particular field of newspaper reporting is bound to lead to a certain irritation and friction.

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		25X1A	22 August 1	960
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COPY	CRE	23 August 1950
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25X1A	Router's treatment of Korea-US items.	

- 1. In regard to the request for information substantiating or refuting the charge that Reuter's has been giving Korea-US news items unfavorable treatment, it can be stated in general that from a rather hasty perusal of the newspapers of Southeast Asia (except Burna, the Annanese newspapers of Indochina, and the Dutch-Language newspapers of Indonesia), there is very little indication that the charge is time.
- 2. On the basis of a quick review and past experience, it appears that very few Reuter's dispatches are carried by nempepers in the Southeast Asian countries, with the exception of the overseas Chinese press. Items from the Indonesian-language newspapers in Indonesia (see Attachment B) which give the appearance of having an anti-US character cannot be properly evaluated without further information and more time. Unless an investigation of the sort requested is conducted over a longer period, the request cannot be fulfilled satisfactorily.
- 3. Attached are the results of the newspaper scan made of the Indonesian-language newspapers of Indonesia, the French-language newspapers of Indochina, the Thai-language newspapers, and the overseas Chinese press of Malaya for the last half of July 1950. Other Chinese papers for the same period were screened, but no Reuter's items were found. The results of the scan of Indian newspapers had not been reported at the time this material was forwarded.

- Attachments: A. Overseas Chinese newspapers in Malaya
 - B. Indonesian-language newspapers in Indonesia
 - C. French-language newspapers in Indochina
 - D. Thai-language newspapers in Thailand

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Attachment A

Overseas Chinese newspapers in Balaya

Except for the headlines, which are senotimes a rather good indication of whether the paper's policy is anti- or pro-US, Reuter's dispatches in overseas Chinese nowspapers appear to be factual presentations of Korean war news.

The Nan-chilae Jih-pae (Cingapore) and the Hsien-tai Jih-pae (Penang), two pro-Communist newspapers, carry a great deal of Neuter's material. A good percentage of this has its source in Soviet, North Korean, and Chinese Communist radio broadcasts or press releases. The following are examples of Reuter's dispatches from these two papers:

- Nan-ch'iao Jih-pao, 27 July: Quotes Noscow pross to the effect that Aly Khan is the "Syngman Rhee" of Pakistan.
- Man-ch'iao Jih-pao, 29 July: P'yongyang Radio Incites Moreans in Japan to Mise Up against US.
- Man-ch'iao Jih-pao, 31 July: Moscow broadcasts news from P'yongyang regarding land reform progress in liberated areas of South Korea.
- Nan-chiao Jih-pao, 31 July: Tass reports that US has established 58 concentration camps with 35,000 Koreans as prisoners and has consisted atrocities, etc.
- Haien-tai Jib-pao, 26 July: Peking radio continues strong propaganda attack on US in various languages, concerning Korea and Taiwan.

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Attachment D

Indonesian-larguage norspapers in Indonesia

The latter half of July's Sin Po, Keng Po, Kedanlatan Rakjat, Merdeka, and Indonesia Timur were scamed. It can be said in general that very few Reuter's Items are carried by Indonesian-language newspapers, which appear to depend largely upon AP, UP, Antara, and Aneta services. However, among the Reuter's dispatches carried, the following items were noted:

Indonesia Timer, 14 July: From the following title, it appears that the item is slightly anti-US: "No-Withdrawal Defense of US Pierced Again; US Rockets Ineffective Against North Korean Tanks". Comment from REL: I seem to recall having seem very similar headlines in US press about that time.

Indonesia Timer, 20 July: In an item titled "US Troops Strengthening Position Around Taejon", the text is factual reporting except for the news dealing with the defeat of US forces and capture of prisoners and equipment, which is highlighted by bold face type. This would appear to indicate an anti-US editorial policy, but would not necessarily be a reflection on Reuter's reporting.

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Attachment C

French-language newspapers in Indochina

In a survey of the following French-language newspapers in Indochina, no Reuter's dispatches were found:

La Liberté (Phnon Penh)	19-02 July
Cambodge (Phnom Penh)	19-25 July
Le Redressement National (Finan Fenh)	19 July
L'Echo du Viet-Man (Saigon)	21-23 July
L'Union Francaise (Saigon)	22-28 July
le Journal d'Extreme Orient (Saigon)	21-28 July

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Attachment D

Thai-language newspapers in Thailand

The following Thai newspapers were checked for Reuter's dispatches on the Korean war:

Prachakon (July 21, 22, 21-28, 31; August 1)

Nakhon San (July 28, 31; August 1, 2)

Sian Mikon (July 15, 18-22, 21-27, 31)

Phin Thai (July 11-16, 18-22, 25-28, 30)

No straight Reuter's dispatch on the Korean war was found. However, an article in the 1 August issue of Makhon San quoted a Reuter's dispatch as saying that foreign residents of Ghanghal fear that the Korean war will spread when the UN forces take the offensive, since at that time North Korea will doubtless call on its friends for aid. Apparently still quoting from the Reuter's dispatch, the article goes on to state that the attitude of North Korea's allies will determine whether or not the war spreads. By placing responsibility for the possible spread of the war on North Korea's allies, the article seems to have a pro-US slant.

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AMERICAN MBASSY

New Delbi, India, Murch 28, 1949

Subject: Reuter's Treatment of Washington News Items

THE HONORABIE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

Sir:

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I have the hener to call attention to two news stories datelized mushington, Murch 25 and widely disseminated in India by the Fress Trust of India - Reuter's Service. In each case the treatment given by Heuter's is such that a AFR. 25 reaction unfavorable to the United States might arise in the minds of Indian readers. The news stories in question ere first the announcement from weshington of the new ECA development division and secondly, an alleged dicision on the part of the US not to enter into further regional pacts. The neuter's lTI report on both these matters is enclosed as well as the text of the official Departmental release on the EC. development disision.

> The contrast between the text of the ECA release as efficially disseminated by USIS from mashington and as rejected by Reuter's is quite interesting:

Router's states that the new development division's program is t: aid European recovery by utilizing the colonial resources of Mershall Plan countries. The efficial text states that the object is to help Marshall Flus countries premate the grewth of their underdeveloped territeries.

deuter's states that the program would try to uncover badly meded supplies of strategie meteriels in durapa's calemiai territories ineluding mangamese, tumgstee, etc. The efficial text says that the first task is to help eliminate disease and improve health standards in underdeveloped areas and that the primary problem is to raise the standard of living.

Reuter's quetes Mr. Weward Pruce, Deputy administrator of ECA, as saying that "We are now prepared to mave whead rapidly". According to the efricial text, Mr. Bruce amphasized that the pragram is still in the "thinking stage and definite prejects are to be warked out".

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Approved For Release 2002/06/13 : CIA-RDP79T01049A000200070004-5 March 28, 1949 - 2 -

New Delhi. India

It is clear from the Deportmental release enclosed herewith that the Economic Cooperation administration has organized a new division with the stated purpose of working out programs for the assistance of underdeveloped dependent areas. Yet Reuter's treatment of this onnouncement might suggest to Asian reders that the new division was created to aid the metrosolitan powers and also the United States, to exploit colonial areas and that its alleged interest in strategic row muterials was somehow reluted to preparation for a war. It will be recalled in this conjection that Prime Minister Nehru has twice reveated in addresses on foreign policy during March that today few international issues were being dealt with on merit but reflected instead a certain meneuvering for position in preparation for a future wer. It would not be surprising then if Indian readers of the story as reported by Reuter's framed an unfavorable opinion of the new division of ECA, and organization from which so much is hoped for the rehabilitation of Europe, including Britain.

The second Reuter's story attributes to "North Atlantic diplomets" the view that the atlantic Pact covers threats to their security from developments in any part of the world. It would be unfair to conclude that the Reuter's correspondent who wrote the fore oing intended to suggest to asian readers the thought that possibly under certain circumstances a Conference of atlantic Pact l'owers might be called to discuss and to take a hand in settling asian problems and to do so even though these problems might relate to independent countries of asia such as Burma or Simm. The sensitivity of durme, in this regard, may be guauged by the reaction there to the well-me ning efforts of the Commonwealth countries in their recent talks at Delhi to bring about more orderly conditions in that country. Indian opinion would be understandably opposed to any effort on the part of the atlantic Pact powers acting together to de: 1 with asian problems. In this connection one needs only to recall the reactions in asia to the actions in Indonesia of the Netherlands, a signatory of the atlantic Pact. Under these circumstances it may be wondered what may have induced Reuter's correspondent to extend with so little warrant the possible application of the atlantic Pact.

It would have been more and intageous not only from the stend point of US interest in friendly relations with India and Asia as a whole but also from the stand point of the similar interests which the UK and other Western European powers have here if the Reuter's presentation of these subjects had been somewhat more f ctual or had been belanced by the dissemin tion of the same news by other press agencies as well. Unfortunitely such dissemin tion by other agencies

including

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New Delhi, India Despatch No. 273 March 28, 1949 **RESTRICTED**

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including the associated Press and the United Press is not possible in view of the privileged, even monopolistic, position which Reuter's enjoys in India. It does not seem likely, judging from the past, that Reuter's will use this position to contribute to the development of understanding and good feeling between the US and India. In fact Reuter's sometimes slants its stories in a manner not likely to strengthen the friendly relationship which exists between the US and the UK. In this connection it might be noted that at the time of Cardinal Mindzenty's trial the opinion was expressed by several persons in New Delhi, most notably by the Counselor of the Apostolic Internunciature, that Reuter's stories on this subject were in effect disguised Communist promaganda (Embassy's desp tch no. 145, February 11, 1949).

Respectfully yours,

For the ambassador

Howard Donovan Counselor of Embassy

enclosure:

- 1. Reuter's news item
- 2. Reuter's news item
- 3. USIS release

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To department in original and hectograph

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Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 273 dated March 28, 1949 from American Embrany. New Delhi, India entitled "Reuter's Treatment of Washington News Items".

National Call

March 25, 1949

PROGRAM E FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CULONIAL RESOURCES

WASHLEGTON, March 25, an expended programme to aid European recovery by unlocking the colonial resources of Marshall Plan countries has been set in motion.

Mr. Fowerd Bruce, Deputy of the Economic Cooperation administration announced on Wednesday night that a colonial development division had been established and would be headed by Dr. Islah Bowman, former President of the John Hopkins University, Beltimore.

The proposal was designed to carry out President Truman's call for development of backward areas with the aid of American industrial knowledge and private investment.

Mr. Bruce told reporters "We are now prepared to move ahead rapidly."

The programme would try to provide new sources of raw material in Europe's colonial territories - notably in Africa and the For East - as well as uncover badly needed supplies of strategic moterials such as manganese, tin iron ore and tongsten.

hs held of the new ECA colonial division, Dr. Bowman will be assisted by Fr. Harlan Cleveland, Director of the China aid Programme.

A five-man advisory committee will assist in formulating policies and approving specific development projects - PTI-Reuter

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cholosure No. 2 to Despatch No. 273 d ted March 28, 1949 from American Embassy, New Delhi, India entitled "Reuter's Treatment of Washington News Items".

Mational Call

Merch 25, 1949

UNITED STATES NOT EA THE LATO FARTHER REGIONAL PACTS

MASSINGTON, Mer. 25 - The United St tes does not intend to participate in the foreseeable future in further regional pacts - either for the Mediterranean or Far Eastern areas - to supplement the North Atlantic Treaty of mutual defence it is learned authoritatively.

North Atlantic diplomats here yesterday also declared categorically that no further regional pacts to back up the treaty were contemplated, under difcussion or planned. Consensus of opinion in these circles appears to be that the terms and implications of the North Atlantic Treaty make such regional pacts unnecessary.

These diplomats have in mind particularly article of the treaty which extends the field of consultation between the North Atlantic Powers potentially to the world.

This article is understood to cover threats to the security of any of the North Atlantic Powers through developments in any part of the world. Thus if developments in South Mast Asia - in Burma, Siam or French Indo-China - led Britain, France or the United States to the opinion that its security was threatened in that area, it could call a conference of the Atlantic Powers.

Such consultation does not involve an obligation to action automatically but the possibility of the North Atlantic Powers deciding to act is not precluded nor is the possibility of military action under Article 4, through the co-ordinated defence system of the North Atlantic Powers excluded - PTI-Reuter

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Enclosure No. 3 to Despatch No. 273 dated March 28, 1949 from American Embassy, New Delhi, India entitled "Reuter's Treatment of Washington News Items".

DWB 60

Territorial Development aim of New Ala Unit.

Washington, Warch 24.

To help European Recovery Program countries promote the growth of their under-developed territories, the U.S. Economic Cooperation administration has set up a development division which is expected to be in operation in about six months.

First task of the new division will be to help eliminate disease and improve health standards in underdeveloped areas, according to Deputy Eth administrator, Howard Bruce, who announced formation of the development unit.

He emphasized that the program is still in the "thinking stage and definite projects are to be worked out.

The primary problem in the areas involved is to raise the standard of living, Bruce told newsmen. To do this, he said, "We must find out what there is to produce."

Wh already has earmerked 1.5 million dollars for development of British areas in Africa, Southeast Asia and British Guiana.

Dr. Isaiah Bosman, former president of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, will direct the new ECA division.

Chief,	BF 23 August 1950 proved For Kelease 2002/06/13 : CIA-RDP-79701049A900200070004-5		
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3. Attached are the results of the scanned made by of the Indonesian language newspapers, French language newspapers of Indochina, Thai language newspapers, and the Overseas Chinese press of Malaya.

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Nan-ch'iao Jih-pao (Singapore), 27 Jul: Quotes Moscow press to effect that Aly Khan is "Syngman Rhee" of Pakistan.

Nan-ch'iao Jih pao, 29 Jul: P'yongyang Radio Incites Koreans in Japan to rise aup against US.

Nan-ch'iao Jih-pao, 31 Jul: Moscow broadcasts news from P'yongyang regarding land reform progress in liberated areas of South Korea.

Nan-ch'iao Jih-pao, 31 Jul: Tass reports that US has established 58 concentration camps with 38,000 Koreans as prisoners and has committed atrocities, etc.

- Teabour

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It can be said in general that very few Reuter items are carried by Indonesian language newspapers which usually appear to depend largely on AP, UP, Antara, and Aneta services. However, the following items were noted with regard to the request:

Indenesia Timur, 14 July 50 -- From the following title it appears that the item is slightly anti-US: "No Withdrawal" Refense of US Pierced Again; US Rockets Ineffective Against North Korean Tanks.

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INdonesia Timur, 20 July 50:—In an item titled "US Treops Strengthening
Position Around Tamjon", the text is factual reporting except for the news
dealing with the defeat of US forces and capture of priseners and equipt
ment which is highlighted by bold face type. This would appear to
be anti-US in nature.

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French - Ir lochina

Reulers.

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In a survey of the following	Franch language
newspapers published in Indochina, 2	Manager would dive any
dispatches were found:	
La Liberte Phnom Penh	19-22 July
Cambudge Throm Tenh L'Echo du Viet-Nam Saigon	21-28 July
Sargon Presse Sargon L'Union Française Sargon	21-28 July 22-28 July
Le Redressement National Phoon tenh	24-28 July

Rewiers -Approved For Release 2002/06/13 : CIA-RDP79T01049A000200070004-5 Thei newspapers checked for Renters' depotche on Gorean was: Prachakon 21,22,24,25,26,27,28,31 July, 1 august Nakhon San 28, 31, July 1, 2 august Sizm Nikon 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31 July Phim Their 14 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30 July No Routers dispatch on the Korean war was found. However, an atile in the 1 august issue of Nethon San quotied a Keulers dispatch as stating that foreign residents of Sharighai Jean Wat the Korean war will spread when the UN forces take the offensive since at that time North Korsa will doubtless call on its friends for aid. apparently still quoling from the Reuters despotch, the article form states

Approved For Release 2002/06/13 : CIA-RDP79T01049A300200070004-5
robethu or not the war speads.
By placing responsibility for the possible spread
of the river on North Koreais allies, the ait de secons
to have a pro-les slant.
chinese papers for same period svere soreened but no Renters tems were found
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India handled by another Branch of SF. If there is & report
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Approved For Release 2002/06/13 : CIA-RDP79T01049A000200070004-5